WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC?

by:

Gracia D. Rubiano
Teacher II, Mabatang Elementary School SDO Abucay Annex

Teaching is one of the world’s most challenging profession as teachers hold a unique and invaluable position in our society. Being teachers, we need to consider our values and competence on how to be an effective educator. If you feel that you have the characteristics, consider ways to improve and learn more on how to become more innovative, adaptive, resilient, and flexible teacher in any given situation that challenges our effectiveness.

In times of pandemic, COVID 19, an effective teacher can still make good use of instructional time through online platforms or any modality to reach out students which can inspires them to do well and to know more without compromising their safety, health and well-being. Being an effective teacher in times like this, one must be able to handle well every situation that comes his/her way.

Today, as we experience different problems in planning how to teach since no face to face is allowed, teachers should be flexible enough to take control of any situation and be more creative by devising ways to keep in touch with the learners. Surely, teachers are values oriented mentors. Being a teacher today, requires these three characteristics: enthusiasm, creativity and positivity. You can express these characteristics in different ways, but typically this means that most time of the day, you truly want to see your pupils learn and excel in any way you could. As a teacher we need to be organized in everything we do to cope with the new normal. It is another key element of an effective teacher. By organizing and planning each day the teacher surely can come up with Weekly Lesson Plan relevant and appropriate to student needs based on the simplified K-12 Curriculum
otherwise known as the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELC) for the School Year 2020-2021.

As we face the challenge brought about by the worldwide pandemic, a teacher must always be realistic and stay positive in whatever he thinks, does or say. Covid-19 Pandemic really has changed the world particularly the education system. The present situation challenges every school and every teacher to navigate the new normal. The traditional way of instruction is not allowed this time. Teachers need to be flexible as they face the challenges of the pandemic like ways to contact the learners even those seem unreachable in order to update them and make teaching-learning possible under new normal education.

The problem is, not all pupils can avail online instruction due to lack of gadgets and internet connections in their homes. The Department of Education introduces different learning modalities like Modular Distance Learning and Blended Distance Learning. Self-Learning Modules and other learning resources developed by teachers will be utilized, as well as Radio, and Television for those who have no internet connections at home. Teachers effectiveness, flexibility and creativity is augmented through online webinars or seminars provided by Department Education and SDO Bataan.

Our school through our ICT teachers provides informative videos uploaded in social media to keep our learner, parents and other stakeholder updated with the current changes. In partnership with the barangay officials, teachers were able to reach out our pupils in remote areas. They also distribute flyers to send important information to all parents to assure that no pupils will be left behind in continuing education during COVID-19 pandemic.

How quality education through the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) can be made possible under the new normal is a big, big challenge to all school leaders and most of all
to all teachers. It takes truly an effective and committed teachers to make this happen. With all these big changes and challenges, effective teachers must act innovatively and maintain resiliency in order to survive and to make each learner feel that even in pandemic situation, education is still a right and not a privilege and it is to be continuously served for all.

References:

Teaching Profession, Passion and Mission, First Edition: Greg Tabios Pawilen

Developing Your Teaching Towards Excellence, Second Edition: Peter Khann & Lorraine Anderson

DepedEd Order No.012, s. 2020 Adoption of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for SY 2020-2021 in the Light of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency